

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2015

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room A

Members present: Ira Berkowitz, Cynthia Garnholz, Jane Klamer, David LaGesse, Jeanne Most, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider and Melanie Tamsky

Absent: Michelle Harris, Darryl Higuchi and Mark Stapleton.

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Wayne Dunker, Tim Hohenstein, Patrick Magee, Jason Quinton, Toni Siering and Denise Ucinski

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the November meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Shaw Park Aquatic Center – Year End Report:

Mr. Jason Quinton, Aquatic Supervisor, and Mr. Patrick Magee, Assistant Aquatic Supervisor, presented the Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) Year End report. (See the attached presentation for additional details.) Mr. Quinton stated that the 2014 Shaw Park Aquatic Center season was extremely rainy; 16.2 inches of rain. Sixty-six percent of the SPAC revenue is attributed to season pass sales. Season pass sales decreased three percent, and daily admission decreased four percent. Personnel cost increased because there was an adequate number of part-time employees the entire season; therefore we did not need to utilize full-time staff. A number of projects had to be completed at SPAC this year including: a new set of stairs for the diving platform, brick and mortar wall had to be rebuilt by the bleachers, underwater replacement lights and Cintas was contracted to clean the locker rooms every two weeks.

Season highlights include: successful recreational swim team under the new format, great numbers for the Clayton Summer Dive Team, solid participation in all aquatic camps, a safe season, 4th of July event with live music and a great back to school celebration.

Sips n' Bits, the contractual vendor, operating concessions at SPAC for the fourth season had a decrease in revenue due to the rainy season. Patrons love the variety of concession offerings, quality of the food; healthier options offered this summer and the friendliness of their staff.

Staff reported that the SPAC membership survey satisfaction scores were very good. Locker room cleanliness satisfaction rating improved due to the hiring of the cleaning service; this has traditionally been a problem area in the past due to poor layout and ceramic tile which holds dirt. Overall comments were positive; the negative comments were about cleanliness and the need for earlier lap swim hours.

Ms. DeForrest said the group whom originally wanted to explore the option of covering SPAC has been redirected; the group is working on fundraising for a heating and cooling system in order to lengthen the pool season.

Shaw Park Tennis Center Year End Report:

Mr. Hohenstein, Athletic and Facility Supervisor, presented the Tennis Center End of Year report. (See attached presentation for additional details) The report included a 2014 Year End Report. There were significant increases in revenue from pass sales as well as programs and a large increase in rentals due to the big event held by USTA and Fontbonne tournaments. The contractual agreement with Frontenac Racquet Club and the City continues to be a great improvement for operations. Tennis Center net for 2014 was \$24,070; seventy-nine percent of the revenue came from programs and private lessons. Staffing costs were eliminated because of the contract with Frontenac Racquet Club.

The Shaw Park Tennis Center highlights include: Shaw Park Tennis Center received the USTA St. Louis District 2014 Facility of the Year award and Frontenac Racquet Club hired Ms. Carolyn Kramer as their

new Head Tennis Pro. Ms. Kramer has worked for Frontenac for seven years, builds good relationships with members throughout the season and encouraged more people to take private lessons.

The contract with Frontenac Tennis Club expired so it is currently out to bid. Ms. DeForrest anticipates that Frontenac will submit a bid. She made it clear to them that the city is happy with their service. The contract was for two years and may be longer this time because using a contractor has proven to be a good experience.

Shaw Park Tennis Center 2015 season plans include: the new tennis contract and continual improvement of the tennis experience.

Director's Report:

A rendering of *One of Us on a Tricycle* into the context of the site was discussed by the Commission. Ms. DeForrest said the Gateway Foundation likes the location and the Public Art Advisory Committee approve of it too. The installer knows children will climb on the sculpture; therefore a soft surface will be installed under it.

Mr. Berkowitz expressed his concerns about the location of the sculpture. He said he feels as if it is too big for the site and does not fit in with the playground; the art piece is random. Ms. Most was not happy with the potential location of the sculpture either. Ms. DeForrest explained that she suggested other placements, such as the south end of Shaw Park and an area further from the north end. Mr. LaGessee said the sculpture looked less intrusive than he originally thought.

Ms. Kramer made a motion in support of the elephant sculpture and the proposed location in Shaw Park. Ms. Tamsky seconded the motion. Five Commission members were in favor of the motion and two were opposed.

Ms. DeForrest is in the process of completing a grant application for the Needs Assessment Survey which will focus on the changing conditions of Clayton park needs since 2007. Both MSD projects are moving forward. Gutters and expansion joints at Shaw Park Aquatic Center will be replaced; the SPAC expansion joint project is out for bid.

Plans for Taylor Park will begin soon. Feedback from neighbors will be obtained, a survey will be conducted, a small group will be formed to help with plans and two public meetings will be held. Ms. DeForrest asked the Commission members to let her know if they are interested in serving on a small committee to assist with the planning process.

Old Business / New Business:

Ms. DeForrest will contact SWT in reference to redesigning the Link area of the Shaw Park Master Plan overlay. There is a donor who would like to fund a project in the link area, but they are not interested in doing the proposed plan and neither is the city or school district.

The donor whom funded the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay has agreed to fund the project at the north end of Shaw Park as well as the maintenance cost. Ms. DeForrest will bring the details of the project to the February meeting.

Ms. Most asked how the ice rink is holding up. Ms. DeForrest explained that the rink opened late but has only lost two days due to rain, the concrete pad is worse and there is a roof leak over the warming hut area that has to be fixed. Moreover, the BOA has discussed some options for the rink and will include questions about the rink in the community survey. The city is committed to keeping the rink open and safe.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski